

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00

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P R 121133Z DEC 73
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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0858
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 10094

USIAC

USINFO FOR IOR/M/IPS, IBS, INE
BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA
ROME FOR VOA

LONDON FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY AND S/S PASS TO MR. SISCO

E O 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION DEC 12

1. MEDIA REMAIN PREOCCUPIED WITH ROADBLOCKS TO GENEVA.
DAVAR (ESHED) SAYS JERUSALEM BELIEVES FINAL OBSTACLES WILL BE
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REMOVED WHEN KISSINGER ARRIVES HERE SUNDAY. HAARETZ (GOLAN)
SAYS WASHINGTON CONCURS WITH JERUSALEM THAT GENEVA SHOULD
RESULT IN REAL PEACE. HAARETZ (FENYVESI FROM WASHINGTON) CITES
UNIDENTIFIED RANKING US OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT US IS INTERESTED

IN STRENGTHENING ISRAEL BEFORE START OF GENEVA TALKS. PRESS HIGHLIGHTS CONTROVERSIAL INTERPRETATION OF GOI'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND CONF WITH SYRIA UNLESS IT HONORS GENEVA CONVENTION ON POWS. MAARIV (HARIF) SAYS DAYAN'S STATEMENT INTERPRETS GOVT POSITION TO MEAN THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT ATTEND OPENING UNLESS SYRIANS FULFIL THEIR OBLIGATIONS. HAARETZ (GOLAN) SAYS SYRIA NOW HAS OPTION TO TORPEDO CONF. HATZOFE REPORTS FONMIN EBAN OPENING SPEECH (GENEVA) WILL REFLECT 14-POINT PROGRAM RECENTLY ADOPTED BY LABOR PARTY. HAARETZ REPORTS FONMIN JOUBERT TOLD ISRAELI AMB BEN NATHAN THAT FRANCE INTENDS TO ACCORD DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO PALESTINIAN STATE WITHIN WEST BANK BOUNDARIES. PRESS ALSO GIVE MAJOR ATTENTION TO US HOUSE APPROVAL OF DOLS 2.2 BILLION ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL.

2. GENEVA CONF: (A) DAVAR (HISTADRUT) (ESHED) WRITES: "JERUSALEM BELIEVES THAT ONLY WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER ARRIVES HERE NEXT SUNDAY THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND THE FINAL OBSTACLES TO GENEVA WILL BE REMOVED... JERUSALEM IS NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT KISSINGER WILL DELIVER A VERBAL INVITATION TO GENEVA ON BAHLF OF THE US-USSR GOVTS... FM EBAN WILL DECIDE ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE ISRAELI DELEGATION TO THE OPENING ROUND..."
(B) HAARETZ (IND) (GOLAN) NOTE: "EVEN IF TWO OBSTACLES (EGYPT'S DEMAND TO REPLACE SUPERPOWER AUSPICES WITH UN AUSPICES, AND SYRIA'S REQUEST TO HAV ARAFAT REPRESENT PALESTINIANS AT CONF) ARE REMOVED... ISRAEL'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND OPENING SESSION UNLESS SYRIA DELIVERS POW LIST AND PERMITS RED CROSS VISITS MIGHT TORPEDO CONF... UNLESS ISRAEL CHANGES ITS POSITION... SYRIA IS NOW ABLE TO BREAK UP THE CONF SHOULD IT SO DESIRE.." WRITING ON WORK OF ISRAELI TEAMS TO PREPARE FOR CONF, GOLAN NOTES: "THE SUBJECT OF BORDERS IS NOT BEING TOUCHED...(AND IS LEFT) UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS... THE TEAMS' AGENDA, HOWEVER, INCLUDES PREPARATION ON: (A) SUBSTANCE OF PEACE, (B) NAVIGATION RIGHTS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS, (C) PALESTINIAN PROBLEM INCLUDING COMPENSATION DEMANDS, (D) ACCESS TO HOLY PLACES, (E) IMPACT OF (ISRAEL) NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT ON POSITION OF OTHER ARAB UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES AND (E) SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PEACE." (MAARIV (HARIF) REPORTS: "DAYAN'S STATEMENT (DC 10) IS ACCEPTED BY MANY OTHERS IN GOVT WHICH HAS REVOLVED THAT IT WILL NOT SIT WITH SYRIANS IN GENEVA UNLESS IT PROVIDES POWS LIST AND ALLOW RED CROSS VISITS... SOME CABINET MEMBERS UNDERSTOOD THE GOI STAND COULD BE BROKEN INTO TWO PARTS: (A) IF SYRIANS DO NOT COMPLY WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS (LIST AND VISITS) ISRAEL WILL NOT ATTEND OPENING SESSION: AND(B) IF SYRIANS DO NOT RELEASE POWS PER CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, ISRAEL WILL NOT ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA..." (E) YEDIOT AHARONOT (IND) (ZIMUKY) WRITES: "CIRCLES IN JERUSALEM EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER DEFMN DAYAN'S STATEMENT... IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED THAT THE GOI DECISION STIPULATES ONLY

THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA -- AND FM EBAN SAID THAT THIS RESERVATION DOES NOT APPLY TO ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH EGYPT, JORDAN AND LEBANON."

(F) JERUSALEM POST EDITORIALIZES: " AS THINGS LOOK NOW, THERE IS REASON TO HOPE THAT THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS WILL ACTUALLY OPEN AS PLANNED..."

3. US POLICY: (A) HAARETZ (FENYVESI FROM WASHDC) REPORTS: "US POLICY IS TO STRENGTHEN ISRAEL BEFORE IT ENTERS GENEVA TALKS--SO SAID A HIGH-RANKING US OFFICIAL, ADDING THAT FOR THIS REASON THE US IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH ITS COMMITMENT TO EXTEND MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL BEFORE AND IN THE COURSE OF THE GENEVA CONF. ANOTHER PART OF THIS STRATEGY IS A FIRM US POSITION AGAINST BLACKMAILING EFFORTS OF ARAB OIL COUNTRIES... THIS WAS SAID IN THE COURSE OF PRIVATE TALKS..." IN ANOTHER ARTICLE FENYVESI WRITES: "PERHAPS A JOINT US-USSR LETTER ADDRESSED TO UNSYG WALDHEIM INVITING HIM TO THE CONF WILL BE SENT IN PLACE OF AN INVITATION TO GENEVA-- SO SAID DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE... THE LETTER WILL INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES TO THE MID EAST DISPUTE TO PARTICIPATE AT THE CONF. IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THE LETTER-- WHICH WILL BE SIGNED BY KISSINGER QND GROMYKO-- WILL NOT MENTION UNSC RES 242."

(B) HAARETZ (GOLAN) REMARKS: "SENIOR OBSERVERS IN JERUSALEM SAID THAT IN THE COURSE OF CONTACTS HELD WITH WASHINGTON, IT SEEMS THAT THE US, TOO, VIEWS GENEVA AS MEAN TO ACHIEVE A REAL PEACE AND NOT JUST AN ARRANGEMENT. THE QUESTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBSTANCE OF PEACE WILL BE A FOCAL ITEM."

4. PALESTINIANS: (A) HAARETZ REPORTS: "THE FRENCH GOVT IS EXMAINING THE POSSIBILITY OF GRANTING DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO A PALESTINIAN STATE WHOSE BORDERS SHALL BE THE WEST BANK AND ITS RCOGNIZED REPS THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS' LEADERSHIP. THIS WAS COMMUNICATED TO ISRAEL AMB TO FRAMCE BEN NATHAN BY FONMIN JOUBERT. IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT TALKS IN PARIS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT ARE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE. SENIOR OFFICIALS IN JERUSALEM PRESUME FRAMCE MIGHT TAKE SUCH A STEP IN ANTICIPATION OF THE OPENING SESSION OR BETWEEN FORMAL OPENING AND START OF NEGOTIATIONS... JERUSALEM CONCLUDES THAT FRAMCE IS NOW INCLINED TO BREAK UP THE CONF... FRAMCE HOPES... THAT THE OTHER EC MART COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW SUIT... SUCH A (FRENCH) STEP MIGHT LEAD TO: (A) LEGITIMIZATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN WEST BANK AND RECOGNIIATION OF TERRORIST" LEADERSHIP AS THE SOLE REPRES- ENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS: AND(B) HWARTS POSSIBILITY OF IGNORING PALESTINIANS AS PARTNERS AT THE GENEVA TALKS..." (B) MAARIV (DAGAN) WRITES: ZINFO ON RENEWED POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON THE WEST BANK-- IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE YOM KIPPUR WAR AND IN ANTICIPATION OF THE GENEVA CONF--

HAS RECENTLY BEEN REVEALED BY RELIABLE SOURCES IN EAST JERUSALEM... THERE ARE ORGANIZED ACTIVITYES-- INFLUENCED BY TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR UMBREALLA (THE PLO)-- TO CARRY OUT HOSTILE OPRATIONS... ON THE OTHER HAND SUPPORTERS OF KING HUSSEIN ARE TRYING TO CONVINCE NATIONAL ACTIVISTS OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE WEST BANK AND JORDAN."

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